ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

SEVENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Alabama Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

Bradleyton Church, Crenshaw County, Ala.,

Oct. 8, 9 and 10, 1897.

OFFICERS:

J. C. FONVILLE, MODERATOR,	MT. CARMEL, ALA.
ELD. C. C LLOYD, CLERK,	GREENVILLE, ALA.
Wm. P. McQUEEN, TREASURER,	SANDY RIDGE, ALA.

The next session will be held with Indian Creek Church, Butler County, Alabama, beginning Friday before the second Sunday in October, 1898. Introductory sermon by Elder T. E. Morgan, Alternate, J. G. Thomas. Missionary sermon by Elder T. T. Dobbs, Alternate, Elder J. F. Sims.

ADVOCATE JOB PRINT. GREENVILLE, ALA.

MINUTES

Bradleyton Church, Bradleyton Alabama,
Friday, October 8th, 1897.

The messengers from the churches composing the Alabama Baptist Association met with the Bradleyton church, Bradleyton, Crenshaw county Alabama.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator, Hon. J. C. Fonville. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder W. H Cheatham. Prayer was offered by Elder W A Cumbie.

Adjourned for dinner.

Afternoon Session.

2 p. m. The letters from the churches were read and names of messengers enrolled, as follows:

First District.

Rutledge—J T Helms, Lee Duke *C K Rushton.

Siloam—M J Barnes, *L H Helms, Oscar Foster.

Damascus—Joe Kierce, R J Smith, E J Hancock, S W Andress, A D McQueen, *Will Smith.

Chapel Hill—S T Kelley, W H Mullins, *Ed Summerford, J H Lee.

Pigeon Creek—J E Helms, C H Morgan, J C Routon.

Second District.

Union—S H Turner, W E Thames, Walter Gradon.

Spring Creek—J A Thornton, J H Stringer, J A McDaniel, J H Staggers.

Panola—J H Sexton, J C Bowen, Geo. R Vickery.

Ebenezer—B W Addison, Jeff. Cook, Thomas Duffell.

Third District.

Bradleyton—J M Carter. M B Smith, T J Thrower.

Mountain Hill—J N Schofield, J S Stevens. *J W Brown.

Hickery Grove—W P McQueen, J C Fonville, W J Supples, George S Morrison.

Sandy Ridge—F E May, E M Andress, *S G Perry.

Fourth District.

Steep Creek—M A Powell, M T Williams, *B F Dean.

Good Hope—Not represented.

Indian Creek—F M Rodgers, *J A Reese, Joe Burkhaults, John Bush.*

Antioch—J H Harrison, E L Stuckey, Geo. H Martin.
Gravel Hill—Jno. A Rhodes, J M Sweat,* Jno. A Owen.*
Adsentees marked thus. *

ORGANIZATION.

J C Fonville, Moderator, Eld. C C Lloyd, Clerk; Wm. P McQueen, Treasurer.

The Constitution and Rules of Decorum were read by the clerk.

CALL FOR CORRESPONDENCE.

Brethren Wm. Nix and P. J. Thrower, from New Providence Association, Elder W A Cumbie from the same. Elder S J Williamson, of Zion Association, Elder A J Preston Evangelist South Eastern Alabama and Bro. Jeff. Harris from Montgomery Association, were cordially received and invited to seats with us.

The report of committee on hospitality was read and adopted.

Partial report on religious exercises read—Elder S J Williamson to preach to night at 8 o'clock.

COMMITTEES TO REPORT AT PRESENT SESSION.

On Nominations—G S Morrison, Chairman.
On Documents and State of Religion—T E Morgan, Chairman.
On Finance—J H Harrison, J M Carter.
On Auditing—J T Helms. M A Powell.
On Time and Place—W H Cheatham, Chairman.
On Missions and Ministerial Education—J F Sims, W C Avant, Jno. A Rhodes.
On Bible Cause and Religious Literature—T F Dobbs, J G Thomas, S S Lee.
On Schools and Colleges—C C Lloyd, J E Helms.
On temperance—T E Morgan, R H Cross, J H Staggers.
On Sunday Schools—W P McQueen, J M Carter.
On Obituaries—J C Fonville, L S Grace
On Orphan's Home—Joseph Kierce, J D Barfield.

COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS EXERCISES.

J C Routen, E M Andress, J A Thornton and pastor and deacons of Bradleyton church.

Adjourned until 8 a m tomorrow.

SATURDAY—MORNING SESSION.

8 a. m. Prayer service by Elder R G Hawkins.
Called for Correspondence.

Elder E F Baber Montgomery Association representing Alabama Baptist, Elder R G Hawkins—New Providence Association, Sister Clara W Ansley representing our Orphans home, also Bro. J R McLendon of Montgomery Association were cordially received and invited to seats with us.

Bro. Dobbs read report of Executive board.

Bro. Lloyd read his report as Colporter and evangelist and it was turned over to Finance committee for adjustment.

The Clerk read report on schools and colleges, after remarks by brethren Baber, Preston, Cheatham, Cumbie and others, adopted.

The reports on ministerial education, home, state and foreign missions were read and jointly discussed by Preston, Williamson, Baber, Thrower and Cumbie, adopted.

Adjourned till 2 p. m.

Evening Session.

2 p. m. Prayer by Bro. G R Vickery.

The discussion of the subject of missions was resumed and after remarks by brother Preston and others, adopted.

Resolved that the executive board of this Association be requested to arrange a campaign of missions in the Alabama Association during the month of December.

Bro Joseph Kierce read report on Orphan's Home represented by sister Ansley and after remarks by brethren Kierce, Baber, Dobbs and sister Ansley it was adopted.

Cash collection for Orphans' Home $11.00.

On motion brethren Sexton and Bowen were granted leave of absence.

Moved that Sunday's collection be equally divided among the three mission boards and orphan's home, carried.

The report on Obituaries was read by the Moderator, and adopted.

Bro. J E Helms, report of Executive Board, and after remarks by Sims, Dobbs, Morgan and others, adopted.

Resolved, that the old Executive Board be continued as heretofore.

Moved, that the roll of the churches be called, and pledges made for next year.

PLEDGES.

Antioch	$5.00	J H Lee	$2 00
Steep Creek	5 00	W H Mullins	1 00
Hickory Grove	5 00	no A Rhodes	2 00
Rutledge	2 5	F E Morgan	5 00
Mountain Hill	2 50	S W Andrews	1 50
Sandy Ridge	5 00	C C Lloyd	1 00
J W Rodgers	2 00	George Vickery	1 00
Joe Buckhaults	2 00	R N Dobbs	50

Report on nominations was read and adopted.

Report on religious exercises, report that Bro. Baber preach to-morrow at 11 a. m., and Bro. Avant at same hour at the Christian church. Bro. W. A. Cumbie to-night at 8 p. m.

The report on documents and State of Religion was read by Bro. E. M. Andress—Adopted

Delegates to State Convention: J C Routen, Geo. Morrison, E M Andress, T L S Grace, J M Carter, Mark Powell, Jno. A Rhodes, C C Lloyd, Elbert Harrison, T T Dobbs W C Avant, J F Sims.

Delegates to Southern Baptist convention: T E Morgan; alternate, R H Cross.

The Treasurer, W P McQueen, read his report, and account current, adopted.

Clerk was directed to correct Finance Exhibit.

The Clerk to be paid $10.00 for his services.

Adjourned to meet at 8 a. m., to-morrow.

Sunday Morning Session.

8 a. m. Devotional exercises by Bro. Andress.

Bro. T. T. Dobbs read report on Bible cause. Discussed by Baber, Morgan, Cheatham, Dobbs and Cumbie, adopted.

Bro. Lloyd read report on Sunday schools, spoken to by Brethren Cumbie, Rhodes, Morgan, Kierce and Williamson, adopted.

Moved, the amendment of Bro. Sims in regard to Mission work be laid on the table—carried.

Moved, that an active missionary be employed to work through the months of July August and September–carried

Sunday cash collection $12.65.

The Association to meet next year with Indian Creek church, Butler county, on Friday before the second Sunday in October, 1898.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association are due, and hereby tendered to the brethren, sisters and friends of Bradleyton for their generous hospitality.

Adjourned to meet next year with Indian Creek.

The parting hand was given. Hymn—"God Be With You." Benediction by the Moderator.

C. C. LLOYD, Clerk. J. C. FONVILLE, Moderator.

COMMITTEES TO REPORT NEXT SESSION.

Temperance—R H Cross, Walter Sharp, S G Perry.

State, Home and Foreign Missions—J F Sims, J T Helms, W H Mullin.

Bible Cause and Religious Literature—C C Lloyd, J H Sexton, H P Watts.

Schools and Colleges—J M Carter, J C Bowen, Jno. A Rhodes.

Ministerial Education—W C Avant, I F Helms, W J Supple.

Orphans Home—T T Dobbs, Jeff Cook, Dr. Thrower.

Sunday Schools—J E Helms, J M Dickinson, W P McQueen.

Obituaries—J W Holloway, Walton Andress, J T Helms

REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE BOARD.

We your Executive Board beg leave to report as follows: We find actual time served by Bro. Lloyd seven months, for which we contracted at $15 per month, making a total of $105.00

DR. To balance due on last year	$ 7.07
Amount paid out by Colporter	103.77
Invoice of books on hand	39.58
Total	$255.42
Amount of Colporter's fund	$52.70
Amount from the churches delegate S. B. C.	10.65
Amount cash sales	96.20
Profits on same	9.56
Total	$169.11
Amount due Colporter,	$86.31
Paid	86.31

We recommend to discontinue the Colportage work, but continue the Executive Board for the purpose of raising money to employ an active man as missionary to work in the bounds of the Association during the months of July, August and September.

We further recommend that the books on hand be divided among the pastors of the Association to be sold, and the proceeds turned over to the Treasurer.

The Colporter and Evangelist reports that during the past Associational year he has preached 81 sermons, baptised 9 converts, held 78 religious conversations, attended 7 protracted meetings, married 3 couples and preached 5 funerals.

No accurate account of miles traveled or families visited has been kept.

He trusts much good has been done in the name of the blessed Master.

By urgent request he filled out an unexpired term at Panola, from June till September.

Respectfully submitted,

T. T. DOBBS,
CHAIRMAN.

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS AND STATE OF RELIGION.

By examining the various reports from the churches we find the state of religion very good, but learn with regret, that the number of baptised believers has fallen off considerably from last year's reports.

The number baptised this year is only 67 against 159 last year.

While we rejoice that God has greatly blessed us, let us labor more earnestly in the cause of Christ.

We note with regret an indifference with regard to prayer meetings and Sunday schools in several churches.

Respectfully Submitted,

T E MORGAN,
CHAIRMAN.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

"God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that who-soever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." This gift of God was because of his love for a lost world. The work of the church is to fulfill the will of the Father as expressed in Christ's command to "preach the gospel to every creature" and for our aid and encouragement the Holy Spirit is promised, "Lo I am with you, etc."

We are sometimes told that the first churches were antimission or opposed to missions. They were omissionaries but not anti-missionaries.

Those that were scattered by the persecution about Stephen went "every where." Philip went into Samaria and the "Lord was with him." They were only half Jews. Afterwards Philip went and preached to the Africans. Peter was convinced only by his remarkable vision that God would have the gospel preached to Gentile as well as Jew, and the church at Jerusalem rejoiced on hearing that the Gentiles had received the gospel. Barnabas sent by the first church

at Jerusalem up to Antioch,labored there with Saul a whole year, when the Lord said, "Separate unto me Barnabas and Saul unto the work whereunto I havecalled them." And they laid their hands on them and sent them away. And they preached the gospel throughout Asia Minor, and parts of Europe. The brethren of Macedonia supplied the wants of Paul while preaching to the heathen Corinthians, "2 Cor. xi." We are trying to do the same thing for nearly 200 brethren preaching in Foreign lands, and to do this need $100,000.00 every year. Let us bear our part in this great work.

Respectfully submitted,

J. F. SIMS, Chairman.

REPORT ON HOME AND STATE MISSIONS.

Your Committee on Home and State missions make this report: Our plan is right, what we need is more funds to send forth more laborers.

W C Avant,
Chairman.

REEORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

Ignorance is the parent of evil. All persons should be educated, especially the ministry, that they may be relieved from embarassment in expounding the scriptures, and be able to explain the mysteries of the gospel and defend the christian faith.

Today we need free schools to educate the people and then we will have an educated ministry. We commend all our colleges and seminaries and in existing circumstances do the best we can.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN A RHODES,
Chairman.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

The use or intoxicants as a beverage is, to say the least, a bad habit. If a bad habit like some diseases is "catching," then it is more so from a church member,than any one else.

We are pursuaded the most effectual quarantine against this fell contagion is Total Abstinence on the part of professed christians.

We recommend a resolution to "Touch not, taste not, handle not the unclean thing" by every member of this Association, and suggest to all that consistency requires the practice on all occasions of what we have resolved to do.

R H CROSS,
Chairman.

REPORT ON SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.

All our members should be in earnest sympathy, and deeply interested in every effort to educate their children.

In this age of progress it is a duty to aid in building up our local schools, to take special interest in the selection of teachers, looking well to moral as well as intellectual qualifications.

We would commend especially our home colleges, howard College and Judson Institute as worthy of universal patronage.

Also we heartily commend the Seminary at Louisville, and the great work done by it in educating our young ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

C. C. LLOYD, CHAIRMAN.

REPORT OF SUNDAY SCHOLS

We believe the object of the Sunday school is three fold: 1st. To get the church to meet every Sunday and study the Bible. 2nd. To restrain as well as teach the young, and guard them against corrupting influences on the Lord's day. 3rd. To impart to them knowledge of God the Father, Jesus the Redeemer, and the obligation that binds them to the great Executor and their fellow man. To interweave in the very texture of their being, moral, virtuous and legitimate principles which will protect from the dangers and temptations of life, and better prepare them for its duties, as well as for immortal bliss beyond the grave

The great need, especially of Christians, is to know God and his word, and in connection with preaching, every Christian should learn and impart that knowledge to each other and their children. For this there is no better way than the Sunday school. We therefore earnestly recommend that each church establish and maintain a Sunday school. Will not our pastors press this important matter upon the indifferent churches.

Respectfully submitted,

W. P. McQUEEN, CHAIRMAN.

NOTE:—Each District Superintendent to report the Sunday school work to the Association.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

W. P. McQueen, Treasurer.

In account with Alabama Baptist Association:

Oct. 10, 1897. DR.

To amount due from last year -	$ 1.99
Received for Associational Missions	77.30
Collected for Foreign Missions	10.00

Collected for Home and State "	6 50		
Collected for Minutes.....	25 70		
Collected for Orphan's Home.....	35 70		$157 19

CR.

By cash to C C Lloyd. Voucher 1,.....	$ 72 80		
To Foreign Mission Board " 2,.....	10 00		
To Home and State Board " 3,.....	6 50		
To Minute Fund " 4,.....	25 70		
To Orphan's Home " 5,.....	35 70		
To C C Lloyd " 6,.....	4 50		
To A S S Board " 7,.....		60	$155 80
By cash to balance due			1 39

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.

Your committee on nominations beg leave to report as follows: To preach introductory sermon Elder T E Morgan, Alternate Elder J G Thomas, to preach missionary sermon Elder T T Dobbs, Alternate Elder J F Sims.

J C ROUTEN,
CHAIRMAN.

REPORT ON BIBLE CAUSE AND RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

The Bible cause is a divine cause, it teaches the character of God. His will to men and their duties to each other and to Him. Its teaching is without error, having God for its author and salvation for its end; therefore it should be carefully read and sacredly observed by the human family and certainly by christians.

It is the best book that can be read. In addition to the bible we should read all the good books possible and encourage our people to read as many of our denominational periodicals as they can especially the Alabama Baptist.

T T DOBBS,
CHAIRMAN.

REPORT ON OBITUARIES.

During the Associational year the following brethren and sisters have "laid their armor by and dwell in peace at home."

Deacon J G Sansom, of Mountain Hill; D C Roach, Damascus; William Bowden, of Union; Ryal Petty, Pigeon Creek; F B Lloyd, of Antioch; Wm. H Rodgers, Clerk of chapel Hill; Deacon W P Bullock, Steep Creek; Callie McQueen, Hickory Grove; Mary Freeman, of Gravel Hill; Ella Bishop and sister Mary J Gibson of Antioch.

"Now they reside where Jesus is
Above this changeful sphere
Their souls were ripened for that bliss
While yet they sojourned here."

J C FONVILLE, CHAIRMAN

LIST OF ORDAINED MINISTERS IN THE ALABAMA ASSOCIATION

W C Avant	Rutledge,	Ala
J F Sims,	Rutledge,	"
W H Cheatham,	Greenville,	"
C C Lloyd,	Greenville,	"
T T Dobbs,	Cook's Stand,	"
B Cooper,	Johnson,	"
T E Morgan,	Honoraville,	"
J G Thomas,	Honoraville,	"
J S Davidson,	Honoraville,	"
R T Poole,	Mt. Carmel,	"

LICENTIATES.

M Pruitt	Ft. Deposit,	Ala.
Geo. R Vickery,	Coleman,	"
Walton Andress,	Greenville,	"
Edward Kolb,	Rutledge,	"
Thomas Duffell,	Highland Home,	"

EXECUTIVE BOARD.

C N Rushton,	T L S Grace,
W O Killough,	J H Killough,
J H Barrett,	F M Rodgers,
Jno. E Roper,	H P Watts,
J H Staggers,	J H Harrison,
J Schofield,	Jno. A Rhodes,
R H Cross,	S T Kelley,
John W Holloway.	J M Carter,
Jeff Cook,	J H Sexton,
J E Helms,	T T Dobbs, CHR.

Five to make a quorum.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF THE ALABAMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION FOR YEAR 1897.

CHURCHES.	State Missions (Voucher)	Home Missions (Cash)	Home Missions (Voucher)	Foreign Missions (Cash)	Foreign Missions (Voucher)	Associational Missions (Cash)	Orphans Home (Cash)	Orphans Home (Voucher)	Minutes	Total	Value of Property
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
New Ebenezer									1 50	1 50	200 00
Mountain Hill						2 50			1 00	3 50	100 00
Union						5 00			80	5 80	150 00
Pigeon Creek						5 00			1 50	6 50	350 00
Bradleyton						5 00			1 50	6 50	400 00
Rutledge						4 00			1 50	5 50	150 00
Damascus						9 00			1 85	10 85	500 00
Siloam						5 00			2 00	7 00	350 00
Steep Creek						5 00			1 00	6 00	1000 00
Indian Creek						5 0			2 00	7 00	450 00
Antioch						3 50			1 50	5 00	300 00
Gravel Hill						5 00			1 00	6 00	250 00
Hickory Grove	75					11 50			1 75	14 00	750 00
Panola						2 20			1 50	3 75	150 00
Chapel Hill						75			1 50	2 25	250 00
Spring Creek						5 00			1 55	6 55	350 00
Sandy Ridge	1 50		2 50		1 50	2 50		2 00	70	10 70	450 00
J. S. Cooke						2 00				2 00	
J. H Staggers						1 00				1 00	
C. C. Lloyd						1 00				1 00	
J. M. Dickerson col'ect'n colp'rter						1 00				1 00	
" for O. Home						8 30				8 30	
T. E. Morgan							10 50			11 00	
Cash collection Sunday ($12.65) distributed as follows:	2 28	2 28		3 30		3 50				3 50	
						4 50	50			12 62	
TOTAL	4 53	2 28	2 50	3.00	1.50	97.25	12.00	2 00	24.15	148.77	6150.00

A correct account of all vouchers as well as cash passing through the churches from one session to another, should be kept and reported fully in the letters. And remember the money and vouchers must first be turned over to Finance Committee, thence to Treasurer, thus avoiding much confusing---CLERK. Total for all purposes, $6448.04

Received of C. C. Lloyd, Clerk, $13.50 for printing minutes of the Alabama Baptist Association for 1897---Greenville Advocate

STATISTICS OF ALABAMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION—1897.

CHURCHES.	COUNTIES	PASTORS	CLERKS	CLERK'S P. O.	Membership last reported	Increase by				Decrease by				Present Member-ship	Sunday School Office'rs & Teach'rs	Pupils	Preaching Sabbaths	Reports Rivival
						Baptism	Letter	Voucher	Restoration	Letter	Exclusion	Erasure	Death					
Antioch	Butler	T. E. Morgan	J. T. Day	Searcy, Ala.	62	4	4	1	1		2	1	3	66			1	1
Chapel Hill	Crenshaw	I. G. Thomas	W. H Mullins	Cooks Stand	61	13	4			4	10		1	67			1	1
Damascus	Butler	W. C. Avant	S. F. Andress	Earlton	112	7	2		1	9	2		2	111			3	1
Sandy Ridge	Lowndes	E. F Baber	Frank May	Ft. Deposit	25	0	2							27			1	
Good Hope	Lowndes	W H. Cheatham	J. C Abbott	Greenville,	Not re pr es ente d													
Gravel Hill	Butler	E. L. Hughes	W. F. Herndon	Greenville	47	6	0				1		1	45	4	40	4	1
Hickory Grove	Montgomery	T. E. Morgan	W. P. Fonville	Mt. Carmel	51	3	2			2			1	54			3	1
Indian Creek	Butler	T T Dobbs	Dan Harrison	Searcy	105		3			4	2			104			4	1
Mountain Hill	Crenshaw	J. G. Thomas	R. L. Hall	Surles	49	4	0						1	52			4	1
New Ebenezer	"	J T Davidson	Jeff Cook	Highland Home	25	2	0		2	1	2			28			2	1
Panola	"	C C. Lloyd	J H Sexton	Honoraville .	21	7	5			1				32			3	1
Pigeon Creek	Butler	T. T. Dobbs	J. G. Wells	Honoraville,	42	5	0			1				43	5	30	1	1
Rutledge	Crenshaw	J. F Sims	Wm. Bailey	Rutledge,	53	0	0			4				49			3	1
Siloam	"	S. Cooper	J. B. Foster	Rutledge	117	2	2		1	3	1			117			2	1
Spring Creek	Butler	T. T Dobbs	T. L Bowden	Daisy	76	18	4		2	7	1		1	89	5	40	3	1
Steep Creek	Lowndes	H. W. Beville	M. A. Powel	Hayneville	124	0	1			27				98			1	1
Union	Crenshaw	T. E. Morgan	J. W. Holloway	Honoraville	56	0	1		7	6			1	57	4	32	4	1
Bradleyton	"	T E. Morgan	Wm. Warrick	Bradleyton	44	1	5	2						56			2	1
Total.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1071	67	33	3	14	69	21	1	11	1099	18	142	42	16

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS AND THEIR P. O. ADDRESS.—Jno. A. Rhodes, Greenville, Ala.. J. E. Helms, Honoraville. Ala.. W. T. Dismuke, Daisy, Ala., J. G. Wells, Honoraville, Ala.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.—Pigeon Creek, J. E. Helms, Honoraville, Ala.; Steep Creek. J. M. Dickerson, Cornie. Siloam, L. H Helms, Rutledge. Spring Creek, W. T. Dismuke, Daisy. Gravel Hill, Jno. A. Rhodes, Greenville. Union, J G. Wells, Honoraville. Rutledge, William Bailey, Rutledge.